



Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back our returning families and to extend a warm welcome to new families by offering some helpful information to ensure a safe and happy busing experience.

At the Transportation Department, we have been preparing all summer long for an efficient and enjoyable beginning to your child's school year. This notice serves to assist you, as a parent/guardian in understanding your responsibilities in contributing to the safety and success of your child's transportation. Please take the time to go over the rules and regulations as well as the school bus safety brochure that are posted on the district website [www.mersnj.us](http://www.mersnj.us) under transportation for additional information.

All pick-up and drop-off times are approximate. Your child should be ready 10 minutes prior to their scheduled pick-up time. Please be flexible; times may vary due to traffic, weather and road conditions.

For our PK-1<sup>st</sup> grade students, for the afternoon drop-off please make sure that a parent/guardian is there to receive your child at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled arrival. If no one is present, the driver will continue his or her route. Every effort will be made to contact you to let you know of this event. If no contact has been made, your child will be transported back to the originating school. All students are only permitted to ride on their assigned bus. Please make proper arrangements for your child when there is an emergency closing, such as a snow day. If there is to be a new permanent pick-up/drop off location, arrangements must be made, in writing using the request for childcare transportation form that can be located on the district website under registration. The form needs to be filled out by the parent/guardian signed and returned to the Transportation Department. The request must be for five consecutive days and within the school serviced as indicated on the form.

If anyone other than the parent/guardian will be at the bus stop to receive your child, a letter must be written and signed with specific contact information. Prior to approval, the letter needs to be sent to the appropriate school and the Transportation Department. Please take the time to update the parent portal by adding your emergency contacts that would allow your child to be taken off the bus in the event that you are not available at dismissal.

All bus delays will be posted daily on the district website. Please check [www.mersnj.us](http://www.mersnj.us) and click on transportation under departments to follow prompts for any up to date information regarding bus delays.

Please make sure you check the parent portal for the most current bus stop information a few days prior to the first day of school. Some bus assignments can change in order to make the bus routes as efficient as possible.

If you should have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would like to wish everyone a successful 2019-20 school year.

*Christine Vastano*

Transportation Coordinator